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LB 389

or assistance so that telephone service can be provided in the more high cost areas of the state and to hold the cost to an affordable level for those people that, of course, need service. Now wireless, Western Wireless has not applied for Nebraska Universal Service Funds yet, but should they apply and should they be eligible and be granted under the state of the law as it has been prior to LB 389, it would appear that the Public Service Commission would be incumbent or obligated to give them funds, but they would have no way to regulate the company which is the offset for accessing Nebraska Universal Service Fund. In other words, they would have had their cake and been able to eat it, too. They'd have had money from the fund, but they would have had no...there would have been no way to regulate them. So the crux of LB 389 after the committee amendment is that where a wireless company achieves eligible telecommunications status and if they voluntarily access or ask to access Universal Service Fund, then they would be subject to the regulations of the commission and they'd be subject to administrative penalties and fines as would other companies who access our Universal Service Fund. That is the crux of the bill. I will go into the amendments on the next go around, Mr. President. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Bromm, you're recognized as Chairman of Transportation Committee to open on the committee amendments. (AM0325, Legislative Journal page 586.)

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. At the committee hearing...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: ...we had some opposition to the way the bill was worded. It more or less expanded the powers of the PSC to regulate unregulated entities; namely, mobile radio services, radio paging, and wireless telecommunications. There were legitimate objections to that and the committee amendment is, as I have very much outlined in my opening on the bill itself, the committee amendment simply provides that if a telecommunications carrier provider, such as Western Wireless, would apply to the